

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: September 10, 1999

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities
Ending on September 3, 1999

FROM: William E. Munro, Director
Superfund Division

TO: Francis X. Lyons
Regional Administrator

David A. Ullrich
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, other significant developments, and training/conferences:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

**Cleanup Completed, Winston Thomas Wastewater Treatment Plant,
Bloomington, Indiana**

In September 1999, the cleanup was completed at the 26-acre Winston Thomas Wastewater Treatment Plant in Bloomington, Indiana. The Winston Thomas site was the former City of Bloomington wastewater treatment plant which was closed in 1982 due to polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contamination. Westinghouse Corporation, now doing business as CBS Corporation, disposed of PCB contaminated oils into the sewer system, which subsequently contaminated the wastewater treatment plant. The cleanup by CBS Corporation was completed through a series of time-critical and non time-critical removal actions. Units remediated at the facility include the west side of Clear Creek, the interim storage facility, east side of the entrance road, three sludge digesters, four sludge drying beds, the trickling filter with 24,000 tons of stone, abandoned lagoons, and the 17-acre tertiary lagoon. The three-year cleanup removed over 194 million pounds of PCB contaminated material for disposal off-site and included the treatment of over 50 million gallons of water. The site has been remediated to industrial/low occupancy cleanup standards and the City of Bloomington plans to redevelop the site.

Contact: Tom Alcamo (312-886-7278)

Cleanup Completed (One Soil Area), Fisher-Calo Superfund Site, Kingsbury, Indiana

The remedial action was completed at one soil source area at the Fisher-Calo Superfund Site in Kingsbury, Indiana. Soil boring samples taken in May, 1999 confirmed the cleanup of the Space Leasing Area at the Fisher-Calo Site. Three soil source areas continue to be remediated.

The Fisher-Calo Site remedy involves enhanced soil vapor extraction of the soil source areas and a pump & treatment system for four groundwater plumes. The property was previously used for solvent recycling operations.

Contact: Jeff Gore (312-886-6552)

Ongoing Response, Kirby Tire Fire, Sycamore, Ohio

On September 2, 1999, the On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs) who responded to the Kirby Tire Fire said today that the cleanup is approximately 40 to 50 percent completed. It had taken 5 days of intense operations for the fire department to put out the fire. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) was leading most of the cleanup, which included putting clay over the area to contain further contamination and to cut-off surface water from infiltrating into the tire pile. The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) was handling water treatment, ensuring spillage was contained, and prepared to cleanup spills from excess contamination that may potentially flow into the nearby streams and creeks. OSCs to be at the site at different times include Karla Auker, Bob Buckley, and Fred Micke.

Contact: Virginia Narsete (312-886-4359)

Cleanup Started, Bennett's Dump Superfund Site, Bloomington, Indiana

On August 8, 1999, the remediation started at the Bennett's Dump site in Bloomington, Indiana. The former quarry/industrial dump received large quantities of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) containing capacitors from the former Westinghouse plant. Extensive salvaging of capacitors took place at the 3.5-acre site and in 1983, U.S. EPA placed an interim cap over the site to prevent the further release of PCBs. After negotiations and

changing the original incineration remedy, Westinghouse, now CBS Corporation, is remediating the site to industrial/low occupancy standards. Soils will be disposed of at an off-site landfill and capacitors will be incinerated at an off-site facility capable of treating PCBs. Sediments are also scheduled to be remediated from Stout's Creek which is adjacent to the site. It has been estimated that 30,000 tons of PCB contaminated material is present at the site.

Contact: Tom Alcamo (312-886-7278)

Remaining Stockpiles Removed, Marina Cliffs Barrel Dump Site, South Milwaukee, Wisconsin

During the week of August 9, 1999, in conjunction with the removal of four remaining piles of contaminated dirt from the Marina Cliffs site, Office of Public Affairs (OPA's) Community Involvement Coordinator and Superfund staff gave on-site interviews to Channel 12 and Wisconsin Public Radio, and briefed the mayor and local condominium association president on the work. In addition, U.S. EPA staff facilitated a resident's request to take soil sampling for independent laboratory analysis. The soil removal work is going smoothly and will be completed shortly.

Contacts: Briana Bill (312-353-6646)
Charlie Gebien (312-353-7645)
Rey Rivera (312-886-1450)

Administrative Complaint Settled, Lake Shore Electro-Plate, Inc., Stevensville, Michigan

On August 31, 1999, U.S. EPA filed a Consent Agreement and Consent Order (CACO) to resolve the Administrative Complaint against Lake Shore Electro-Plate, Inc., Stevensville, Michigan. The Administrative Complaint was filed on March 2, 1999. The Complaint alleged violations of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) Section 312. The Respondent had hydrochloric acid and sulfuric acid greater than the minimum threshold level for calendar years 1996 and 1997. The Respondent submitted the inventory forms on April 6, 1998, for both years, six days after the EPCRA compliance inspection. The proposed penalty in the Complaint was \$59,974.68 and the penalty in the CACO settlement resulted in \$20,991.56 to be made in three payments. The Respondent has 30 days to make the first payment and to submit an EPCRA compliance certification .

Contact: James Entzminger (312-886-4062)

Proposed Plan Public Meeting Held, Pagel's Pit Superfund Site, Rockford, Illinois

On August 25, 1999, a public meeting was held to present to the public, and discuss with them, the proposed cleanup plan for the groundwater in the southeast corner of the Pagel's Pit site (Operable Unit 2), which was not included in the 1991 Record of Decision, and a proposed change in the cleanup plan for the groundwater for the rest of the site (part of Operable Unit 1). Pagel's Pit (Winnebago Reclamation) landfill is a permitted, operating solid waste landfill that is close to reaching capacity. There were 40 to 50 people at the meeting and a lively discussion took place. At the request of some in the audience, another meeting will take place to further discuss the site.

Contact: Bernard Schorle (312-886-4746)

Access Agreements Obtained, Old American Zinc Plant Site, Fairmont City, Illinois

On August 18, 1999, Office of Public Affairs (OPA) representatives obtained from local residents signed access agreements allowing U.S. EPA contractors to conduct residential soil sampling. The residents' homes are close to an old zinc smelter, and large slag piles are still on the property. If sample levels are high enough, U.S. EPA will do a time critical removal while studying the site for further remedial action. The surrounding community has a large Spanish-speaking population, so OPA also provided Spanish translation.

Contacts: Gordon Blum (312-353-8501)
Leo Rosales (312-353-6198)

Administrative Complaint Filed, Minnesota Brewing Company, St. Paul, Minnesota

On September 1, 1999, U.S. EPA, Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention, issued a Complaint against Minnesota Brewing Company, St. Paul, Minnesota. The Complaint alleges that Minnesota Brewing Company failed to timely submit to the State Emergency Response Commission and fire department a Hazardous Chemical Inventory Form (Tier II) for the 1995, 1996, and 1997 calendar years, due annually on March 1 of each year for the previous year's storage information. The U.S. EPA discovered the storage of 6 hazardous chemicals including three extremely hazardous substances (ammonia, sulfuric acid, chlorine, carbon dioxide, fuel oil, and sodium hydroxide) above the reporting threshold, during an inspection at the Facility on April 30,

1998. The Facility came into compliance immediately after the inspection.

U.S. EPA is proposing a \$90,450 penalty (including 59 days of multi-day penalties) for the 122 reporting violations. Minnesota Brewing has 30 days to answer the Complaint.

Contact: Ruth McNamara (312-353-3193)

**Public Availability Session Held, Cannelton Industries, Inc.
Superfund Site, Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan**

On August 10, 1999, Office of Public Affairs (OPA's) Community Involvement Coordinator and the Remedial Project Manager held a public availability session to address the community's desire for a mid-remedial cleanup update. U.S. EPA provided current cleanup information and the time line for completion. The community is pleased with the progress of the cleanup. However, several residents have seen large rats and wanted to know if that is caused by remedial activities. U.S. EPA, the company doing the cleanup, and the City will be working together to address the problem.

Contacts: Eileen Deamer (312-886-1728)
Rosita Clarke (312-886-7251)

**Community Interviews Conducted, Baker Wood Creosoting Site,
Marion, Ohio**

Office of Public Affairs (OPA's) Community Involvement Coordinator interviewed citizens, environmental group representatives, and local officials regarding the Baker Wood Creosoting site. Among their concerns were possible effects on groundwater and the Little Scioto River. For the most part, there was little concern about health and none regarding property values. Most people were pleased that this time-critical cleanup is underway. Many said they would not be interested in attending public meetings on Baker Wood. They did say that the fact sheets developed for the site were good, they have access to the Internet (and would check out the Baker Wood page), and that they have seen the articles written in the Marion Star. U.S. EPA also researched information on the site at the library and historical society, and took digital photos to update the Region 5 web site. The information collected will be summarized in a community involvement plan for the site.

Contact: Susan Pastor (312-353-1325)

OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS

Enforcement Databases Procured, Chicago, Illinois

Lance Vlcek, Civil Investigator, Remedial Enforcement Support Section (RESS), has procured the services of Lexis-Nexis and CDB Infotek for Fiscal Year 2000. CDB Infotek is an electronic data base search company for finding individuals. Lexis-Nexis is a source of information on businesses, court rulings/decisions, and legal news. Through Lexis-Nexis and CDB Infotek, gateway access to Dun & Bradstreet (D&B) has been procured which allows RESS to conduct research, pull D&B reports, and to order a large variety of other business related documents directly through D & B.

Either Tom Marks, Chief RESS, or Mr. Bill Messenger, Chief Emergency Support Section (ESS) may be contacted by Office of Regional Counsel (ORC) or Superfund Division personnel who need the services. Upon request, RESS staff will analyze the reports generated.

Contact: Lance Vlcek (312-886-4783)

TRAINING/CONFERENCES

Federal Emergency Management Agency's Regional Interagency Steering Committee Meeting, Chicago, Illinois

On September 1-2, 1999, a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Regional Interagency Steering Committee (RISC) meeting was held in Chicago, Illinois. U.S. EPA representatives were Cindy Nolan, Beverly Kush, Ann Whelan, and Glenn Cekus. Other entities represented included the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, American Red Cross, Department of Defense, Public Health Service, General Services Administration, and the City of Chicago Fire and Police Departments. Topics discussed included a FEMA update and disaster activities. A briefing was given on Y2K (Year 2000) computer issues within the Federal government. An overview of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) was provided.

The tabletop WMD exercise was held on Sept. 2, 1999. Agencies were divided into Emergency Support Function's. About 20 questions were asked regarding a scenario involving a biological agent dispersed over the City of Chicago during the air show. The next FEMA RISC meeting is scheduled for December 1999.

Contacts: Cindy Nolan (312-886-6246)
Beverly Kush (312-353-8200)
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Publication, "Lessons Learned About Superfund Community Involvement," Features Partnerships at Waste Inc. Superfund Site, Michigan City, Indiana

A new national Superfund publication, "Lessons Learned about Superfund Community Involvement," features ways in which public involvement has helped clean up sites. Featured for Region 5 is the successful partnership between U.S. EPA and community leaders at the Waste Inc. Superfund Site in Michigan City, Indiana.

Contact: Noemi Emeric (312-886-0995)

U.S. EPA Presents Introduction to Superfund to Residents, Fox Valley, Wisconsin

On July 26-28, 1999, U.S. EPA presented three workshops, Introduction to Superfund, to nearly 50 residents, local government officials, and representatives of environmental and other organizations. The workshops were well received.

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